

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-31 are pending in the application. Claims 4 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1, 12, 15 and 29-31 have been amended. Entry of the present amendment prior to examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.”**

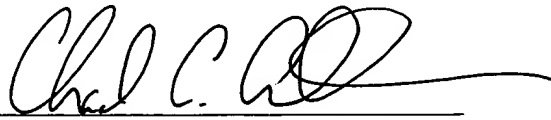
In response to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicant hereby elects Species B - the embodiment shown in Fig. 7. Claims 1-3, 7-12, 14, 15, 18-22 and 29-31 read on the elected species. Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 15 and 18-22 are generic with respect to each of the listed species. Examination of the claims readable on the elected species is respectfully requested.

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Appl. No. 09/944,217

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 06/02/03

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad C. Anderson", written over a horizontal line.

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**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**

***In the Claims:***

Please amend claims 1, 12, 15 and 29-31 and cancel claims 4 and 13.

1. (Amended) A method of dividing an elongated web having a variable width into a plurality of elongated strips, comprising the steps of:

advancing the web lengthwise in a predetermined direction along a predetermined path;

subdividing the web into a plurality of strips, including cutting the advancing web in at least one severing plane;

monitoring the widths of the strips and generating signals denoting the monitored signals;

processing said signals; and

shifting at least one of the web [,] and the severing plane [and at least one of the strips] sideways when the processing step indicates departure of at least one monitored width from at least one other monitored [a predetermined] width.

12. (Amended) The method of claim [1] 8, wherein said [subdividing] step of establishing a variable spacing includes [splitting the web into two strips and said shifting step include] shifting at least one of the [two] strips sideways.

15. (Amended) Apparatus for dividing an elongated web having a variable width into two strips, comprising:

means for advancing the web lengthwise in a predetermined direction along a predetermined path;

means for subdividing the web into two strips including a severing unit arranged to split the web in a severing plane;

means for monitoring the widths of the strips and for generating first signals denoting the monitoring widths;

means for processing said first signals and for generating second signals when the [width] widths of [at least one of] the strips [deviates] deviate from [a predetermined width] each other;

and

adjusting means including means for shifting at least one of the web[, the strips] and the subdividing means transversely of said direction in response to said second signals.

29. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said rolls are disposed at a level below the adjacent portion of said path, [said shifting means] the apparatus further comprising [including] means for changing the level of at least one of [the strips by way of] said rolls [in response to said second signals].

30. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said processing means includes

means for generating second signals denoting the combined width of the strips and said means for changing the level of the at least one [strip] roll is responsive to said second signals.

31. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said processing means further comprises means for generating additional signals denoting the widths of the strips and the strip shifting means further includes means for changing the level of the other of the [strips] rolls in response to said additional signals.